

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Action/Discussion Item:

703 KAR 5:010, Writing portfolio procedures (Final)

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 158.6453, 156.070

Action Question:

Should the Kentucky Board of Education give final approval to 703 KAR 5:010?

History/Background:

Existing Policy. KRS 158.6453 requires the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) to promulgate an administrative regulation that reduces the teacher and student time involved in preparing a writing portfolio. 703 KAR 5:010 establishes procedures to accomplish that goal.

Due to design changes in the Kentucky Writing Portfolio, concerns from the field and instructional concerns of the KBE, it is necessary to revise language in the current regulation that governs writing portfolio procedures. The revisions outlined below are the result of input received from the Board during the February 2006 discussion and feedback from educators throughout the state.

Policy Issues and Options:

Primary areas of change to 703 KAR 5:010 based on the discussions at the February 2006 KBE meeting include:

- Section 1. Appropriate Use of Time - Additional language was inserted into subsection (1) clarifying practices that can reduce student and teacher time in preparing the portfolio. A new subsection (4) was added that would preclude, beginning in the 2006-2007 academic year, the offering of classes for the sole purpose of completing a writing portfolio for accountability purposes. (It is important to note that some Kentucky high schools have already started scheduling students for the 2006-2007 school year. This change to the regulation might require some schools to change scheduling plans for next year.)
- Section 2. School and District Writing Programs – A new subsection (4) requires that when a student transfers to another school or district, the working folder shall be sent to the receiving school along with the student's transcript. It further requires that writing instruction be included as a component of literacy instruction and not isolated

for the purpose of assessment. The subsection also clarifies that the cluster leader is not required to be a teacher from the assessment grade levels. Subsection (7) clarifies that resource allocation is to be made based upon instructional needs as determined by data collection and needs analysis.

- Section 3. Writing Instruction - New language in subsection (1) clarifies that writing tasks will relate to standards-based units of study. Subsection (2) clarifies that writing tasks will allow opportunities for student choice in writing and publication to real audiences. In subsection (6), language has been revised to more clearly express the KBE's position regarding student revision of portfolio pieces.
- Section 4. Portfolio Design and Scoring – In subsection (3), language has been added to clarify that the teacher primarily responsible for overseeing the completion of a writing portfolio shall not serve as a scorer of record on that portfolio.

Additional technical revisions have been made.

Staff Recommendation and Rationale:

Based on educator feedback throughout the past two years and advice from the Kentucky Board of Education discussions, staff recommends that the Kentucky Board of Education approve the above revisions to 703 KAR 5:010.

Impact on Getting to Proficiency:

Writing instruction and program implementation must improve in all schools if students are to become proficient writers. Proficiency in other content areas also involves the student's ability to present an understanding and application of content knowledge. Although open-response questions are not scored according to writing criteria, a student who has the ability to formulate a written argument or explanation has a greater opportunity to receive high scores in all content areas.

Groups Consulted and Brief Summary of Responses:

The following groups reviewed the Administration Guidelines for Writing Instruction and provided comments to assist with regulatory revision:

- District Assessment Coordinators
- Instructional Support Network
- Writing Advisory Committee
- Kentucky Association of School Superintendents
- Local Superintendent Advisory Council
- School Curriculum, Assessment and Accountability Council

Additional feedback from groups will be provided at the meeting.

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Date:

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